

Sayed Alhakim: We Must Deepen Trust Between Political Parties

S. Alhakim Attends Meeting With Political Leaders



Sayed Alhakim attended on Saturday, July 9, 2011, the second meeting of the leaders of political blocs and parties at the Office of President Talabani. This meeting was held to unify the vision of the Iraqi political scene in order to take common positions on the outstanding issues and to activate the agreements between the political leaders. The President of the Republic, Mr. Jalal Talabani, stressed during a press conference held after the meeting, that the conferees discussed the issue of national partnership and the activation of Erbil agreement. They expressed their views on different issues, frankly, adding that they agreed to form a committee comprising representatives of the parties participating in the political process. This committee will provide proposals for the implementation of issues that can be implemented immediately and what proposals can be postponed. The president added that they will hold another session in two weeks to find out the results of the work and decisions regarding the implementation of previous resolutions. He noted that care, trust, and cooperation were prevalent during the meeting.

Sayed Alhakim On Current Political Stalemate

Sayed Alhakim has put forward several

points that represent the general framework of the demands of the Iraqi people. Sayed Alhakim has said that these eight points represent the general framework of the demands of the Iraqi people and that these need to be met in order to overcome the crisis that has erupted between the political parties in Iraq. These points must be met to make positive moves toward the future, moves that are desired by all. Sayed Alhakim said that these points will make Iraq and the Iraqis look forward to a promising future. The points are as follows:

1-Fight against financial and moral corruption:

In the West there are controls to prevent corruption, controls that have not been codified in Iraq. In Iraq we stand up and defend our civilization and our values and our Islam, our principles and we must fight corruption. Whether it be corruption that effects Iraq administratively, financially and morally in Iraq, it does not matter. Because we are proud of this civilization and this history we must fight against those who would expedite its deterioration.

2-Providing necessary services:

Today, the street wants a working and capable electrical grid that provides them with much needed power. It is the right of citizens to attain the necessary services of housing, water, electricity and natural needs. It is also their right to have access to employment opportunities etc.

3-Strengthening the security reality:

We need to build on our security achievements and we need to see an integrated security system that is able to achieve real stability in this country. We want our temporary success to turn into a successful, sustainable and long term success. But how can we achieve success in security when there are four security ministries that are still vacant?

-Continued on P. 2

President Talabani Accepts Mr. Mahdi's Resignation



After the rejection of President Talabani to accept the two previous resignation requests submitted by then-Vice President Adel Abdul Mahdi, President Jalal Talabani finally accepted on Monday, July 11, 2011, the resignation request contained in the third letter submitted by Mr. Mahdi. The President of the Republic replied with the following letter:

Dear Brother Mr. Mahdi,

It hurts me that you are forcing me to accept your resignation request of the joint work, where I would never have engaged in it without you. Although it's not my will or my desire, I accept your resignation request. I ask God to keep you as an asset to the federal democratic Iraq.

With my great pride in our long camaraderie and our brotherhood,

Jalal Talabani
President Of the Republic
July 11, 2011

Pres. Talabani Statement On Mr. Mahdi's Resignation

With deep regret and pain, we had finally to accept the resignation of our brother and

Sayed Alhakim Hosts Political-Cultural Forum



Sayed Alhakim hosted on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, the political-cultural forum. Sayed Alhakim praised the efforts made by President Jalal Talabani for trying to find a solution that would have prevented Dr. Adel Abdul Mahdi from resigning. He added that the President of the Republic made an effort to persuade Mr. Mahdi, but the latter insisted on the resignation as a victory for the people's will and compliant to the wise guidance of the religious authority. Sayed Alhakim indicated that Iraqi situation needs to stop the spread of the culture of treating high level sites as trophies for personal benefits and bring about a culture that promotes the public's benefit over the private benefit, indicating that the desire of people is to reduce the number of positions. This call for reduction did not include Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi as the First Vice President of the Republic, denouncing the silence of some officials of what is happening today in terms of the lack of services. We do not see any resignations and we do not see that anyone else taking the initiative and responsibility for these failures. He cited the electricity where successive governments failed to provide it, however there is no one bears responsibility on this issue. In regard the World Population Day, Sayed Alhakim called to put an end to the rise in political shenanigans that have disrupted the census process in Iraq, stressing that the census will provide an important data base for the development of the country by identifying the needs of this country. He added that Iraq needs a technical and vocational census away from the political partisanship. Sayed Alhakim also criticized the difficult questions in the final exams that take place at the end of the school year. He reiterated his call that testing centers are not for revenge against the sons and daughters of certain peoples, and given the decline

of services in these centers, he hopes that relevant sites can understand the reality of the suffering of the students.

Sayed Alhakim Receives VP Alhashimi



Sayed Alhakim received on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, Dr. Tariq Alhashimi, Vice President of the Republic. During the meeting, they discussed the steps needed to strengthen the democratic and pluralistic political system experience in the country, and develop and deepen relations with Iraq's regional neighbors. They also reviewed the latest Arab and regional developments. VP Alhashimi expressed his delight in meeting with Sayed Alhakim indicating that they both emphasized during their meeting that there is a need to find a way out of the obstacles facing the political process.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Governor Of Wasit



Sayed Alhakim received on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, Mr. Mahdi Hussein Zubaidi, the Governor of Wasit province and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed developments and construction projects in the province and the reality of departments and institutions in the province. They also talked about the problems encountered in developing the performance of institutions in the province.

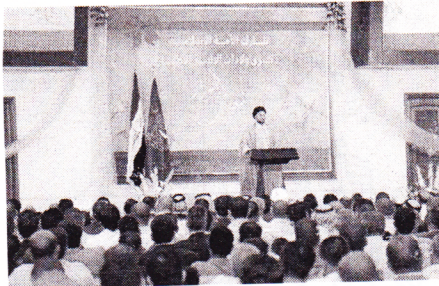
Sayed Alhakim listened to a briefing from the Governor and the delegation accompanying him on the services and construction projects and ways to promote

them in general. Sayed Alhakim stressed on the need to activate the government departments and its institutions in order to provide essential services to citizens. Governor Zubaidi expressed his delight to meet with the President of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, stressing that Sayed Alhakim expressed his readiness to provide assistance and cooperation and support in all fields, stressing that the province desperately needs the support of political leaders in the country to advance the province and provide services needed by the citizen. He emphasized at the same time that the province is serious in promoting the level of services.

S. Alhakim Receives Head Of Kirkuk's Provincial Council



Sayed Alhakim received on Monday, July 11, 2011, Mr. Hassan Tauran, the head of Kirkuk's provincial council and a number of council members. During the meeting, they discussed the latest situation in Kirkuk and the problems of the province and its people. The Chairman of the provincial council in Kirkuk expressed his delight to meet with Sayed Alhakim and said "that Sayed Alhakim has opened his heart and mind to listen to the concerns of the province of Kirkuk and its people." This was at a press conference after the meeting. Mr. Tauran also said that "the province of Kirkuk is a vital province, and was subjected to injustice in the past and still is, and we briefed Sayed Alhakim with the concerns of this province," he added that the President of the Islamic Supreme Council has promised the visiting delegation that he would convey the concerns of the province to all political leaders, noting that "Sayed Alhakim is known for his national positions and his proximity to the citizens' concerns to help us solve these problems and seeks with all political leaders to bring up these problems to find fair solutions." About the privacy of the province and its



and remove IHEC without finding a replacement for this institution. He stressed that such movements would contribute to creating a vacuum in the country, which in turn delays holding elections on time. Sayed Alhakim indicated that the process of agreeing on alternative to this commission is a complex and a difficult process, citing the inability of the political blocs to agree to nominate ministers for the ministries of security, positions which are still vacant. Sayed Alhakim called to the need for systematic and constitutional methods on dealing with such issues, discussing the negligence in the work of the Commission and whether they are members of the Board of Commissioners? He emphasized the need to find the best alternative before proceeding to withdraw confidence from the council and that confidence should be withdrawn only if there were evidence to prove the failure of performance of the commission. He said that the security challenges and the size of the decline and the deterioration of security makes us vulnerable to terrorism. He referred to the government's tally that showed that 725 Iraqis had been either killed or wounded recently. This is an increase of 34% of victims of terrorist attacks since last May, and as a result Sayed Alhakim called for a thorough review of security plans. On another subject Sayed Alhakim stressed the need to respect the Constitution because it is written by Iraqis in difficult circumstances and voted on by the Iraqi people. He called for resorting to it at the time of differences, indicating that the amendment of the Constitution cannot be done only through mechanisms indicated by the Constitution itself, rejecting at the same time the voices that want to diminish the value of the Constitution. In regard the King of Bahrain's step on the formation of an independent commission to look into the events of Bahrain's latest event. He said that this step is a good step as it is transparent and able to declare the facts.

Sayed Alhakim Receives Governor Of Babylon



Sayed Alhakim received on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, Mr. Mohamed Massoudi, the governor of Babylon. During the meeting, they discussed the general situation in the province, and the security aspects and services.

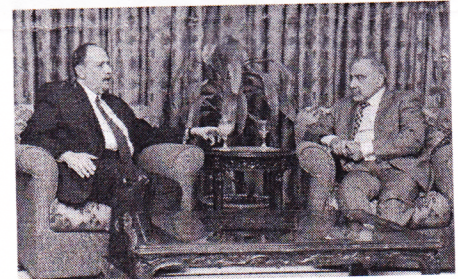
Sayed Alhakim Receives First Vice President Of Iran



Sayed Alhakim received on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, Mr. Mohammad Reza Rahimi, the First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sayed Alhakim stressed on the bilateral relations between Iraq and Iran and the need to promote them for the benefit of the two brotherly neighbors, especially in the economic and development areas. He said, "we believe in the need to have solid economic relations between the two countries and benefit from the Iranian experience in development and reconstruction areas, especially that the Islamic Republic experienced a successful experiment where it was able to achieve high level development, and that Iraq could invest and benefit from this experience in reconstruction and development of public facilities in the country." He added "We look forward to solid relations at the political, economic, cultural and exchange of experiences levels through this communication, and we can contribute to a serious contribution in the promotion of stability in the region in general and

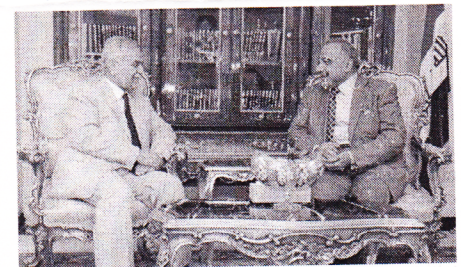
the development of interests between the two countries." The first deputy of Iranian President was pleased to meet with Sayed Alhakim, stressing that this visit is part of the promotion of construction and development movements in Iraq, explained that the two countries took serious steps in the promotion and consolidation of the ties of cooperation at all levels.

Mr. Mahdi Receives Egyptian Ambassador



Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi received on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, the Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Sharif Kamal Shaheen. During the meeting, they reviewed and discussed the latest developments in the political situation in Egypt and the region. Emphasis was placed on the importance of achieving stability in Egypt and the rest of the region, including the vital interests of their people, especially in the areas of security, economy, investment and development.

Mr. Mahdi Receives VP Alhashimi



Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi received on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, Vice President Tariq Alhashimi. VP Alhashimi expressed regret over the resignation of Mr. Abdul Mahdi from his position as vice president and praised the great efforts he made for the success of the political process and his efforts to lay the foundations of democracy in the country over the past years. VP Alhashimi hoped to continue cooperation

THE ISCI BULLETIN

Vol. 4 No. 13

ISLAMIC SUPREME COUNCIL OF IRAQ

Friday, July 15, 2011 7

centralization. Extreme centralization produces only dictatorship and totalitarian parties. Because federalism prevents partition centralism encourages it.

2-The Serious Degradation In Security:

The scramble for positions and quotas coupled with the lack of naming security ministers since the formation of the current government have been major factors that have contributed to the degradation in security and the escalation of terrorist attacks over the past three months. This is a result of the stampede on the sites and positions at the expense of the security of citizens.

We call on all political blocs to look with open eyes at the interests of the Iraqi people, and especially the security interests. This is needed to stop the deterioration of security in the Iraq. Whether in Baghdad or other parts of Iraq we must speed up the nomination of independent and patriotic ministers to fill vacancies in the defense, interior and national security and other services. We also call for security to step up the pace and efficiency of intelligence work in a manner that ensures the prevention of crime before it happens and if the situation remains the same no one can guarantee the safety of citizens and that all partners in the political process would be responsible for this deterioration of security in Iraq.

3-Freezing the work of the Electoral Commission:

The Iraqi Political scene in Iraq is witnessing more space in the visions and perceptions between the political blocs as to what happened from the interrogation of this commission in the parliament and positions varied between those who were skeptical that the entire process is politicized and is subject to partisan dictates and those who support the work of the commission. Because the fact that the Independent Electoral Commission has committed irregularities in appointments and programs of sending delegations abroad, has cost the state budget extra financial allocations that is not in the interests of Iraq.

We do not underestimate the importance of the benevolent efforts made by the interviewed MP before the CoR to reveal some irregularities, but we see that the

freezing of UNHCR's work in light of current circumstances will mean that we enter a political process in a constitutional crisis. Particularly if we consider the importance of this commission, which was established in accordance with Article 102, which states High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Independent Higher Commission for Elections and the Integrity Agency, independent bodies, under the control of the Council of Representatives, and that their work to be organized by laws. So we see that these bodies, including the Electoral Commission has to freeze its work through the Iraqi parliament only as a check on their work and not by the hand of the Executive. We also see that the work requires the freezing of their work should involve providing alternative capable of holding fair elections through efficient staff that are trained and have extensive experience. As we see the need to examine irregularities as they may be of some members of the Commission, otherwise the freezing of the work of the Commission will be subjected to politicization.

4-Foreign Relations:

Iraq is trying hard to work for the establishment of balanced relations with the countries of the region and with all nations on the basis of common interests that contribute to building the infrastructure and security elements of economic development, service and security. This is especially true with the neighboring Arab and Muslim states, and within the policy of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region away from the policy themes that have failed for three decades during the dictatorship eras. It's obvious that some of the blocs and parties participating in the political process and through a policy of double standards are trying to build relations with countries opposed and still oppose the political process. We in ISCI call on all political parties to stay away from the policy of double standards and mixed papers, and take advantage of expertise that characterizes these brotherly and friendly countries through their successful experiences in the reconstruction of their countries and prosperity development, and benefit from their capital in the construction of investment projects that contribute to

the prosperity of Iraq and ensure the future of his people at the security and service, economic and cultural levels.

5-E-government:

The most prominent feature of this current era is the technical and technological revolution in communications, which has led to a boom not seen in human history. This revolution has altered the speed of the transfer of information, and this revolution has become a milestone in changing many of the patterns of life as well as changing many of the ruling regimes, leading to the establishment of a new world full of intellectual achievements. Perhaps the most important help the developed and developing countries to organize their lives and political, service, security, cultural fields and how to build government institutions is the catalyst factor in organizing the affairs of these countries. Countries which dealt seriously with the formation of e-governments in more than one domain, and that the latest statistic says 89% of the countries belonging to the United Nations used this technique in its organization of things, and in our Arab region, Egypt and Jordan and United Arab Emirates were at the forefront of countries in the region in dealing with such a scientific development so prominently.

We call upon the Iraqi government to accelerate the completion of such a government using the latest technologies to address all forms of delay in the construction of strategic projects and projects associated with some ministries, for example but not limited to the launch of the national ID card through which can dispense dozens of supporting documents of the citizens as possible through database can be provided by the elimination of administrative and financial corruption and detect terrorist groups through access information as soon as possible, as well as provide the benefits of a very big help in reviving the Iraqi economy.

Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq ISCI-USA, Inc.

1001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 730,
Washington, DC 20036 - USA
Tel: (202) 775-5110 • Fax: (202) 775-5166
info@isci-iraq.com
www.isci-iraq.com

This material is distributed by ISCI-USA, Inc. Which is an agent on behalf of a foreign principle, ISCI, and that additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, FARA office.

dear friend, Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi from his post as Vice President of the Republic. After weeks of attempts and efforts, no effort were spared to convince him to withdraw his resignation request and continue his important and dynamic role as vice president, a role that we highly praise with gratitude and appreciation for years that we worked together in the presidency. He is a brother, friend and a colleague; a brave leader, trusted friend and a faithful fellow. Features that we would not be surprised in this period of work in the new Iraq, but are thus what we had grown accustomed to during the struggle against the dictatorship and to work for a democratic Iraq, where we have shared pain, dreams and tribulations and triumphs. The choice was difficult, and we recognize the value and meaning in that a man like Adel Abdul-Mahdi is the subject of this option that we took it after a bitter struggle between the desire of Mr. Adel and his convictions on the one hand and between our feelings and our need for his presence and effort and work with us on the other hand.

But we did not have any choice but to accept the desire of Mr. Abdul Mahdi request to resign, believing that he is one of the men of Iraq and its national symbols and who spared no effort and determination and pursuant to building the new Iraq and to maintain the progress of its political process and build its democracy. While we express my regret and pain for such acceptance, we also express our sincere thanks for Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi for the effort and creative thinking, and expressing also a definite confidence he will remain, to the side of his friends and his brothers.

Sayed Alhakim On Current Political Stalemate

-Continued from P. 1

They are without ministers because of political considerations and conflicts between one faction or personality against another. I renew my call for all officials to give up parts of their demands for the benefit of the people. People who serve and who are killed in cold blood every day.

4-Bringing the Criminals to Justice:



This is a popular demand today and the Iraqi people are united in the pursuit of criminals. These criminals have caused large-scale massacres in all regions of Iraq, without exception. Therefore, there is a need for decisive actions to bring the criminals to justice, especially those who were sentenced to capital punishment.

5-Political commitment to the agreements:

Political blocs, nationalists, and patriots sit at the table to agree on issues and sign their intent. Leaders must hold their commitment to agreements. This is because we are in Iraq, and being Iraqi we accept such standards in political practice. We practice politics in accordance to the historical and cultural Arab and Islamic values.

6-The promotion of true partnership in the making decisions and administration:

Decisions of the country must be taken collectively by the partners in the political process. The administration of the country must be run in this manner, but today there are those who say there is a partnership and there are those who say there is no partnership.

What are the standards and what are the controls? How do we ensure a partnership in the making of decisions and how do we guarantee a partnership in administration? We must put in place standards and then look at the reality and apply these standards until we get to see a decisive vision. We need to see if a partnership existed or not, and there are calls from the political forces and social forces and Iraqi audience who are not convinced of the existence of the partnership.

This means we need to develop a criteria to convince everyone that there is a genuine partnership.

7-Deepen the trust between the political parties:

This mudslinging in the media disturbs our people and confuses the purity of the relationship between people and their representatives. This makes them nervous every day. We want to live and want to build and look to the future, and if we have not reached that certain stage of confidence then we cannot form a team and as a result these intersections will have an impact on important projects. The confusion of political entities at the national level must be addressed.

8-Develop profiles for the construction of state institutions in Iraq:

How do we build the state and how do we get rid of the negative personal views and improvised convictions and urgent attitudes? For a start we should have State institutions, where the roles are distributed and divided equally. The tasks are integrated between the various parties, and there is a clear top priority. We must find out what the most important projects are and how to spend, billions of dollars for the necessary projects and save money on projects that are not necessary. If we want to build State institutions, then the State needs internal systems in the organization that will allow for work, so we know how to integrate the roles and not intersect with other institutions.

The reduction of ministerial positions is being debated today. The reduction of the number of ministries is a popular demand. People began to feel that this ministerial slack lead to the weakness in the provision of services and dissipate state funds. That is why there is a need for reduction and a response to this demand.

The process of reduction should be reassuring to all political forces and the Iraqi public in general. We need to feel that this action will not get around these eight demands and exacerbate the crisis. This step is right and correct in the context of strengthening confidence and partnership between the political components. We hope that the process of ministerial reduction will be conducted in a professional and thoughtful manner, away from propaganda and meet the actual demands of the Iraqi street.

importance, Mr. Tauran said, "We believe that the key to maintaining the unity of Iraq is to maintain Kirkuk. In regard to the issue of the formation of regions is guaranteed by the Constitution and we believe that this may be one of effective solutions to solve the problem of Kirkuk by giving it a special status. On the subject of non-completion of property claims in the province, Mr. Tauran said "The clearest evidence of the loss of the right of Turkmen is by not resolving property problems for eight years" and he said that Turkmen and the sons of Kirkuk have lost hundreds of thousands of acres of lands as a result of the arbitrary acquisition by the policies of the former regime and so far we could not return those lands in the city.

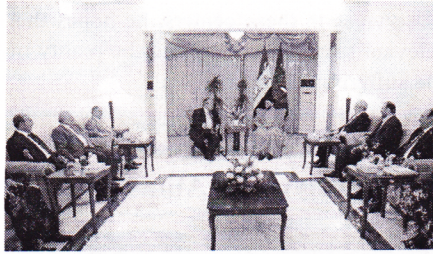
Sayed Alhakim Receives French Ambassador



Sayed Alhakim received on Saturday, July 9, 2011, Ambassador Den Goyer of the French Republic to Iraq. During the meeting, they reviewed the political situation in the country and the situation in the region. Sayed Alhakim stressed on Iraq's desire to strengthen and develop its relations with France, and wished the new ambassador success in his mission to promote mutual cooperation between Iraq and France in various fields. The French ambassador praised to the persistent and serious attitude of Sayed Alhakim to achieve national consensus among all the forces and the Iraqi parties; thus accelerating the process of construction in Iraq.

Sayed Alhakim Receives President Talabani

Sayed Alhakim received on Thursday, July 7, 2011, the Iraqi President, Mr. Jalal Talabani. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments on the Iraqi and the regional arenas. Sayed

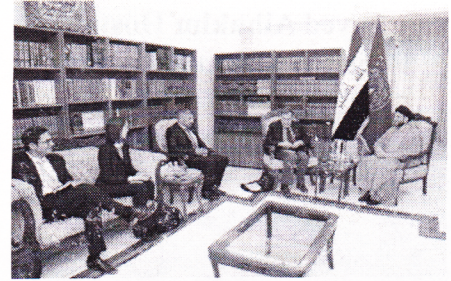


Alhakim stressed in a press conference held after the meeting that they reviewed the most important developments in the Iraqi and the regional arenas, and the need for joint cooperation in order to overcome the crises faced by the Iraqi political arena. He added that the national dialogue subject was of concern to President Talabani, stressing that the meetings of the national dialogue that is supposed to continue represents an important development in bringing the views and calm the political arena and focus more on serving citizens and address their problems. President Talabani stressed on the alliance with ISCI and its leadership and said "we honored to visit and meet with Sayed Alhakim and that we assured him on behalf of the Kurdistan Alliance and brother Massoud Barazani that we are committed to the alliance with ISCI, as well as joint action to put Iraq on the right path and the success of future meetings with political leaders, as well as to strengthen the bilateral alliance and the consolidation of our relations more and more."

President Talabani confirmed the convening of the political leaders to be held on this coming Saturday, expressing hope that this meeting will yield to the implementation of the agreements that have been emphasized in the previous meetings on the need to end the political intersections and the emphasis on the commitment to the agreements including the Erbil Convention on the initiative of the brother Massoud Barazani.

Sayed Alhakim Receives ISW Delegation

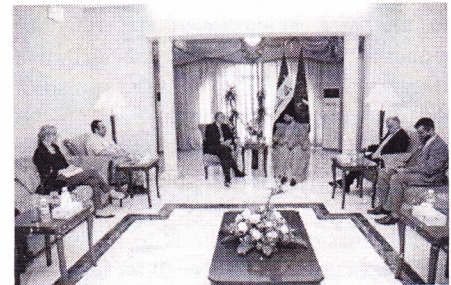
Sayed Alhakim received on Thursday, July 7, 2011, a delegation from the Institute for the Study of War. During the meeting, they reviewed the stages of the political process in Iraq and the achievements and the accompanying difficulties and obstacles. The visiting delegation also raised many questions and inquiries concerning the Iraqi situation, as Sayed Alhakim indicated his



views on the overall situation in Iraq and the nature of the new formed government and the vision of ISCI to overcome the crises and difficulties and to improve the Iraqi reality in different areas.

The delegation was accompanied by the American writer Michael Jordan, who has authored several important books about Iraq.

Sayed Alhakim Receives UK Ambassador



Sayed Alhakim received on Thursday, July 7, 2011, Michael Aaron, the UK Ambassador in Iraq. During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral relations and ways of developing them, as well as the political situation in Iraq and the region. Sayed Alhakim wished the new ambassador success in his mission and especially that he has considerable experience in the affairs the region. The British Ambassador praised the positions of Sayed Alhakim in his quest to bridge the gap between the various Iraqi political parties in order to overcome the crisis in the country; especially that Sayed Alhakim has good relations with all parties in the Iraqi political scene.

Sayed Alhakim Hosts Political-Cultural Forum

Sayed Alhakim hosted on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, the political-cultural forum. He warned of the movements that seek to withdraw confidence from the Electoral Commission and their work for elections

with Mr. Abdul Mahdi, in order to develop the political process and complete the remaining national tasks in order to serve national interest of the country and its people.

Mr. Mahdi Receives Australian Ambassador



Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi received on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, Australia's ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Robert James Essen. During the meeting, they discussed the progress of relations between the two countries and prospects of development to include other areas, especially in the agriculture sector, because of Australia's experience and great potential in this area that can be transferred to Iraq for use in achieving a quantum leap in this sector. The Ambassador praised the great efforts made by Mr. Abdul Mahdi in the development of relations and cooperation between the two countries, expressing hope that relations will witness further development.

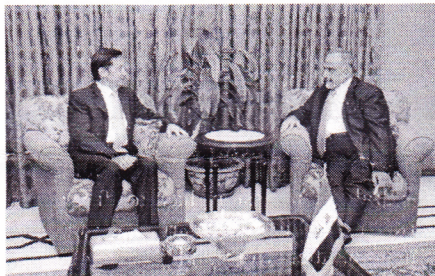
Mr. Mahdi Receives UK Ambassador



Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi received on Saturday, July 2, 2011, the new UK

Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Michael Aaron. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the general situation in the country and the ongoing developments in the region.

Mr. Mahdi Receives French Ambassador

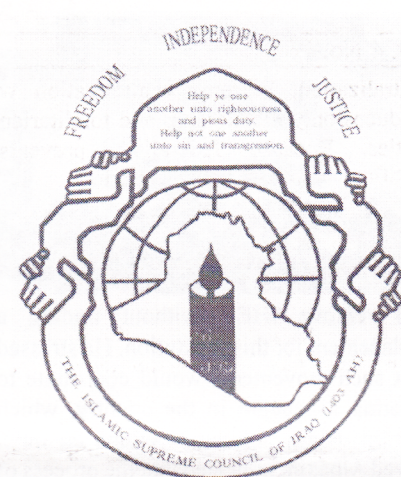


Mr. Adel Abdul Mahdi received on Thursday, June 30, 2011, Ambassador of France, Mr. Gower. During the meeting, they discussed ways of enhancing relations between Iraq and France. Mr. Mahdi praised the great efforts undertaken by the French government to strengthen the bonds of cooperation between the two countries, praising the great development witnessed by these relations in the fields of economy, and development and investment, stressing that Iraq pays special attention to developing its relationship with France and benefit from their experience particularly in the area of reconstruction. The French Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the efforts undertaken by Mr. Mahdi to strengthen relations between Baghdad and Paris for the benefit of both countries and peoples.

The Challenges Of The Political Arena

The Iraqi political arena has faced challenges that may bring about the estrangement of political parties and politicians.

This will cause a state of confusion in the Iraqi political arena. The pressure of waiting for the results of the meetings of politicians, this after haggling and furious statements, has come at the expense of pain and suffering of the Iraqi people; suffering especially at the level of security, stability, and services. There are a number of developments in the Iraqi political arena that must be addressed and declare their landmarks and positions:



1-Federalism:

The imposition of the strong iron fisted central rule that has been a theme throughout the contemporary history of Iraq has created pattern of unfair and oppressive regimes that exposed the national unity of Iraq to great dangers. It was at forefront of the totalitarian party which led to the arbitrary exclusion and long marginalization of the majority population of Iraq. There was a need to remove these types of unfair regimes that ruled Iraq and their damaging effects and that is why the Iraqi constitution ensures in article number 119, that it is the right of any one province or more to form a region based on a request for a referendum.

This is to be held in two to be held in one of two ways:

A-There is a request by one third of members in each of the provincial councils that intends to form a region.

B-A request by one-tenth of voters in each of the governorates intending to form a region.

Thus, the Constitution ensures the right of provinces to form regions, according to the regulations of the Iraqi constitution. This is a federal administrative designed to protect the national unity considering that the Iraqi people consists of ethnic and sectarian and religious components that cannot be marginalized by dictatorships and authoritarian regimes. We in ISCI does not stand against the formation of regions according to the constitution and even respect the will of the Iraqi people if they choose the formation of federal regions to reduce the influence of extreme

